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Dkt. 66194-Z CCD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Paul Vincent EVANS et al.

Serial No. : 10/726,181

Group Art Unit 1742

Filed : December 1, 2003

Examiner J. Combs-Morillo

For : ALUMINIUM ALLOY SHEET

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036
November 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the above-identified application for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 19 independent) and 20 - 26 (dependent on 19), all directed to a method of producing an aluminum lithographic sheet, are in the application. The claims have been rejected under 25 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over "The Effect of Process Parameters on the Fir-Tree Structure in DC-Cast Rolling Ingots" (Brusethaug et al.) in view of U.S. patent No. 5,711,827 (Sawada et al. '827).

Applicants' claim 19 recites, in pertinent part, the steps of (a) providing a molten body of aluminum alloy of specified composition (0.05-0.20 wt% Si, 0.25-0.40 wt% Fe) "wherein the